

100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Established on February 8, 1910, the Boy Scouts have provided a positive influence for millions of young men throughout the country and have instilled in them the twelve key pillars contained in the Scout Law, which reads: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Over the past 100 years, we've all known family, friends, and neighbors involved in the Boy Scouts who took these building blocks of leadership to heart and made their communities a safer and better place. The Boy Scout program has reminded the American people of the higher notions of patriotism and good citizenship. With a range of former Boy Scouts such as Buzz Aldrin, Bill Gates, Tommy Lasorda, and Gerald Ford, this program has served to structure the lives of some of our greatest countrymen.

I want to personally congratulate the two Boy Scout Councils in my district, the Northern New Jersey Council and the Patriots Path Council, on this very special anniversary. The dedicated Scout leaders who are involved in these programs have introduced Scouts in New Jersey to exciting explorations and taught them new skills that they will use throughout their life. They have recounted stories of Native American folklore around campfires, taught Scouts the uses of a taut-line hitch and bowline knot, and have provided the Scouts with an opportunity to take on responsibilities and duties to further their maturity into adulthood. There are few greater chances for aiding our country than to help these young men in their efforts to make themselves physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Boy Scouts of America owes its tremendous history and over two million Eagle Scouts to an unknown English Scout who helped an American newspaper publisher cross a street in London. That newspaper publisher was so impressed by the Scout's willingness to help that he would later go on to found the Boy Scouts of America. Today, the Boy Scouts of America embrace the social and personal virtues needed in mankind and provide countless opportunities for their Scouts to better our world as a whole. With their example in mind, I hope all Americans will use this opportunity to help a neighbor, volunteer in his or her community, explore nature, or learn more about our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 4425 and H.R. 4238 and wish to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Last night, I met with constituents of mine in a town hall forum at the Champaign County Nursing Home and I was unable to arrive in Washington, DC to cast my votes.

Had I been present on Rollcall No. 49 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 4425, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2-116th Street in North Troy, New York, as the "Martin G. 'Marty' Mahar Post Office," I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present on Rollcall No. 50 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 4238, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 930 39th Avenue in Greeley, Colorado, as the "W.D. Farr Post Office Building," I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was absent and missed rollcall votes 49 and 50.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 49 and "aye" on rollcall 50.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHILIP BRUNELLE RECEIVING THE 2010 LOCAL LEGEND AWARD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Philip Brunelle who received the Minnesota Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Committee's 2010 Local Legend Award.

Philip Brunelle is a renowned conductor, organist and choral scholar. In 1969, with his partners, Brunelle founded the non-profit choral music organization Plymouth Music Series now known as VocalEssence.

VocalEssence presents concerts which feature the 130 voice VocalEssence Chorus and its core group, a 32-voice professional mixed chorus called the Ensemble Singers, along with guest singers and instrumentalists. VocalEssence stands apart from other choral groups because of its range, variety and quality of performance.

Mr. Brunelle has been awarded the 2010 Local Legend Award for his work with the WITNESS Collection. WITNESS is an initiative that began in 1991. It seeks to bear witness to the musical contributions of African American artists through concerts, recordings and educational programs.

This initiative has grown to include; an annual concert, a 4-volume collection showcasing 100 years of classical compositions by African American composers, educational outreach programs that strive to teach students about African American contributions, and the Teachers Guide that enhances educational outreach initiatives.

It is a privilege to recognize this valued leader before the United States House of Representatives. I salute Mr. Brunelle on behalf of his selfless dedication to music and the history of African American Artists.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Philip Brunelle, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to recognize the many important contributions African Americans have made to our nation. We especially honor the extraordinary people who continue to help shape our community and our great nation. I have the privilege of representing thousands of successful and talented African Americans here in the second congressional district of Nebraska. Today I would like to recognize four individuals: Frank Hayes, Phyllis Hicks, Dr. Mary J. Clinkscale and Dr. Herb Rhodes.

Frank Hayes is a CPA who owns his own business. He is also a founding member and first president of the 100 Black Men organization, which is dedicated to improving the lives of youth. He has worked tirelessly to help minorities start their own businesses.

Since 1967 Phyllis Hicks has run the Salem Stepping Drill Team and continues to be a volunteer and chief fundraiser for this youth group. Through her outreach she has helped many youth overcome obstacles such as discrimination.

Dr. Mary J. Clinkscale, or "Dr. C" as she is commonly referred to, is the administrator of the Greater Beth-el Temple where she has planned, produced and directed more than 250 theatrical productions and presentations, including a performance to prelude the Tuskegee Airman receiving their Congressional Gold Medal.

Dr. Herb Rhodes has been a life-long member of the Omaha Business Community. He was featured in a 1975 issue of Ebony Magazine, which highlighted successful African Americans leading the way in the business industry. He not only has had success in the business community, but continues to be a role model in our city.

CONGRATULATING LEE COLLEGE ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lee College in Baytown, Texas for their 75 years of dedication to our community and commitment to excellence in education.

Since 1934, Lee College has established a legacy of leadership and learning in our community by providing learning opportunities and experiences that have allowed students to excel in an ever changing environment. As a result, Lee College is one of the fastest growing community colleges in the country and has a nationally recognized Honors Program. It has furthered its accomplishments by being the first community college in the country to receive the Kresge Foundation Grant, reflecting the foundation's support for Lee College's critical role in providing access to higher education for minority and low-income students.

Americans turn to community colleges to provide the education that leads to greater